Proposals from Animal Husbandry

† 2305. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from the Department of Animal Husbandry in Madhya Pradesh lying pending for approval with the different departments of Central Government for the last five years;

(b) the reasons for non-approval *i.e.* pendency of proposals; and

(c) by when proposals will be approved by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Support price for soyabean

†2306. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to stare:

(a) the quantum of soyabean purchased at support price in the year 1999 in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the farmers have complained about inadequate arrangement for purchase of soyabean at support price in Madhya Pradesh and some agitations have also taken place in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Central Government to purchase the whole quantity of soyabean of Madhya Pradesh at support price; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) as a nodal agency of the Government of India, procured

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

through state agencies, 237460 tonnes of Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh till 15th December, 1999.

(b) and (c) The NAFED is committed to procure entire quantity of soyabean of FAQ specification, offered by farmers, at the minimum support price. Purchase of soyabean at the minimum support price, by NAFED is continuing.

Prime Minister's appeal for relief measures

2307. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state Whether Prime Minister has not -yet made any appeal to the Nation and the International Community and Financial Agencies for giving assistance to the Super Cyclone affected people of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): The Prime Minister had made an appeal to the Nation on October 30, 1999 to come forward and provide relief to the cyclone hit people of Orissa and generously help in their early rehabilitation. As a matter of policy, no such request for international assistance is made by the Government.

Waiving of Agricultural loan

2308. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to waive the agricultural loan and interest of all farmers of Orissa's cyclone affected areas; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for 100 per cent crop insurance in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks not to recover either principal or interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years and reschedule the amounts not